# Nebraska Behavioral Health Reform Statewide Workforce Initiative

To create an innovative, recovery-focused education and training center for the purpose of developing a competent, interdisciplinary behavioral health workforce to serve the people of Nebraska

#### Nebraska's Behavioral Health

 In any given year, 24 - 30% of Nebraska's population suffers from a mental illness and/or substance abuse



#### What is the problem?

- We reformed services in the Behavioral Health system; however, the job of behavioral health reform isn't finished.
  - Trained professionals are lacking in all our communities.
  - We train within our own disciplines but work in teams.

### Unfinished Business from LB 1083

- LB 1083 Section 71-820
- "Promote activities in research and education to improve the quality of behavioral health services, the recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals, and the availability of behavioral health services."

# Education Must Support Reform

- Change in Location and Philosophy of Care
  - Community-based
  - Interdisciplinary
  - Recovery focused
  - Evidenced based

Requires state-wide change in Model of Training

# Organization and Management

- Academic leadership members of UNO, UNK, UNL, Community Colleges, Creighton and UNMC
- Partners with Regions, Agencies, Consumers and Family Members
- "Center" to develop curriculum, coordinate education across academic institutions, and provide clinical training
- "Sites" in all areas of state to meet local training needs

6

#### What will the Center do?

- Interdisciplinary supervision and teaching
- Develop certificate programs for special focus on community services
- Education for undergraduate trainees through post-graduate practitioners
- Clinical supervision of trainees in all areas of the state
- Develop peer support

#### What will the Center do?

- Increased number of trained practitioners
  - Increased Psychiatry Residency Training
  - Improved Recruitment into behavioral health fields
  - Improved Retention of Providers especially in rural areas
- Tele-health and Tele-education for rural areas

#### What will the Center do?

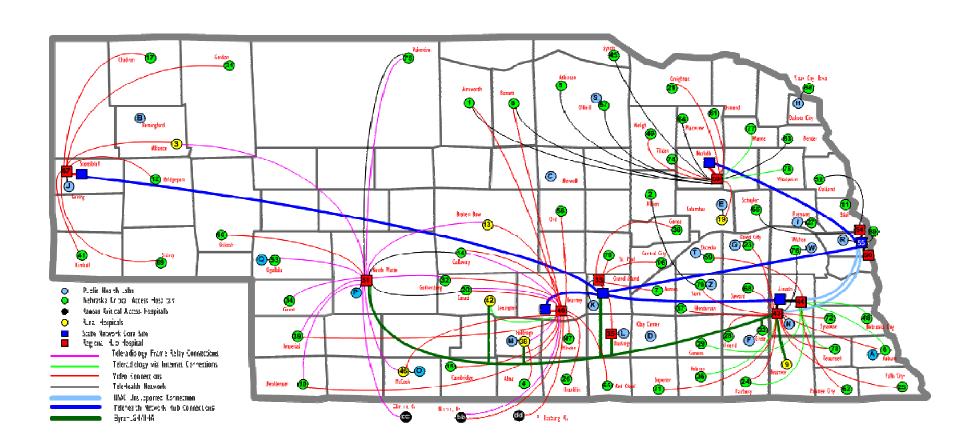
- Improved Preparation of the Behavioral Health Workforce
  - Development of Interdisciplinary Education Tools
    - Examples: Recovery, Co-Occurring Disorders
    - All Stakeholders Involved
  - Dissemination of Materials
    - Examples: Current professional education (all professions), New certificate programs, Statewide In-Service Training,
  - Interdisciplinary Training Site

### Interdisciplinary Faculty and Trainees

- Inclusive of all Behavioral Health professions
  - Psychiatry
  - Mental Health Practitioners and Social Work
  - Substance Abuse Counselors
  - Community Rehabilitation Workers
  - Psychology and Neuropsychology
  - Primary Care
  - Nursing
  - Physician Assistants
  - Pharmacy
  - Peer Support Providers



### Statewide Secure Information Network



### **Site Development**Training Students in Local Communities

- Modeled after successful Rural Health Education Network
- Sites developed with partners
  - Behavioral Health Regions
  - Rural Health Commission
  - Area Health Education Centers
- Sites developed with local agreements
- Two sites developed each year for three years

#### How can we do this?

- Leveraging Existing Resources in a targeted fashion
- Integration of resources is key
- Involve all stakeholders



Small investment leads to greater return

**Resources / Partners** 

- Consumers
- Families
- Creighton
- University of Nebraska Campuses
- Lasting Hope Recovery Center
- Community Colleges
- Community-Based Providers

#### **Outcomes**

- Improve rural recruitment / retention
- Provide more psychiatry residents
- Improve statewide access to high quality care
- Improve quality of behavioral health training
- New ways to collaborate

#### For More Information

Rhonda Hawks 402-691-9500 rhawks@tenaska.com

Steve Wengel, M.D. 402-552-6002 swengel@unmc.edu

Susan Boust, M.D. 402-341-2310 sboust@unmc.edu